

Arabs of the Dark ages declared that they would not rest until they had gratified their revenge by killing ten chiefs of the clan of Banu Malik.

When (Hazrat) Urwa who was by this time nearing his end came to know of this he called them together and addressed them thus: "Brethren I beseech you, do not start bloodshed on my account. For the sake of peace I forgive my enemies".

This (Hazrat) Urwa came of a people with whom revenge was a most important religious duty. But Islam changed the Arabs quite completely.

STORY 25.

TRUE CONTENTMENT WHICH IF UNIVERSALLY PRACTISED WILL MAKE HEAVEN OF THIS EARTH.

To be contented with what will meet one's needs and not to desire for more is a truly Islamic virtue. Muslims have always regarded greed as the root of all evil and have cultivated contentment.

1. Once in the time of (Hazrat) Omar large sums of money had to be distributed among the Muslims. (Hazrat) Ali as one of the muslims was entitled to his share. But when (Hazrat) Omar offered it to him he said "I will not accept it, because at present we have no need of it".

"This is yours by right", replied (Hazrat) Omar, "there is no reason why you should refuse it".

"I know we are entitled to it" said (Hazrat) Ali, "but this year we have enough for our needs. Other Muslims need it more. Let it be distributed among them".

Upon this (Hazrat) Omar sent the money to the Baitul-Mal.

2. Once Abdul Aziz son of Marwan wrote to (Hazrat) Abdullah son of (Hazrat) Omar asking him to make out a list of his requirements, and send it to him, that he might meet them from his treasury. (Hazrat) Abdullah wrote back in reply: "The Prophet had said, 'The Upper hand is better than the lower one'. Begin your alms